



# August Newsletter

INVERALLOCHY SCHOOL  
Working Together for Excellence  
Everyone's a Learner  
Be Happy  
Do your Best



## Welcome Back Everyone!

This is our first newsletter for this session! This year we will continue to produce newsletters sent home via email on a monthly basis. I hope that this will continue to allow parents and friends of the school to be kept 'in the loop' regularly!

## Diary Dates

### September

- Mon 4<sup>th</sup> - 8<sup>th</sup> Academy students in school for work placements (x5)
- Wed 6<sup>th</sup> Parent Council AGM @ 7.00 pm
- Mon 11<sup>th</sup> P1 Parent Workshop - 1.30pm
- Mon 11<sup>th</sup> Dalguise Meeting - 5.30 pm
- Thurs 14<sup>th</sup> I- Bike breakfast
- Tues 19<sup>th</sup> I-Bike Bike check
- Wed 20<sup>th</sup> School Photographs
- Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> I-Bike - P7 Bike ride
- P1s - Balance Bikes
- Thurs 21<sup>st</sup> Parent's Evening and book fair

### October

- Fri 13<sup>th</sup> Last day of term 1

## Staff changes for 2017/2018

As mentioned before the holidays, we welcome Miss Rebecca Watret to our staff in Primary 4/5. She has settled well into her new role and I am sure she will be a welcome addition to Inverallochy School.



Miss Watret in P4/5

We also have 3 Academy students each visiting us for an afternoon of their school timetable for flexible study. This will hopefully help them to fulfil their future career choices. Welcome to Jessica, Natasha and Caitlyn! Great to have former pupils back with us!

It is great to see all the children back safe and sound after the summer! There has been news of various adventures over the holidays - everything from trampoline parks to holiday camps. Glad to see they are all back in one piece now though! The classes (and staff!) are all settled down and getting back into the school routine.

A very special welcome to our new nursery boys and girls who have joined us this term. It can be quite daunting for them and for parents too! I will be popping up to nursery regularly to get to know our newbies.

Our 16 Primary 1s have all been superstars in their first few days. They have been learning new routines and rules for their classroom and have been making new friends. I am sure there will be some sleepy children by the time the full days start next week!

## Reminder ...

Please ensure your children

- Bring a water bottle to school to stay hydrated throughout the day.
- have their gym kits (named) in school to participate fully in PE
- have a pair of wellies for outdoor learning and playing outdoors
- KILT PINS - Please remove from your child's kilt before coming to school as these are a health and safety risk.



### Lunchtime Clubs Reminder

Flutes - Mon - Beginners (P4s)  
Tues - P6/7  
Wed - P5s  
(Please remind children to bring their flute to school)

Knitting Thursday @ 1.00pm (P3 - 7)

Choir will start back after the October holidays

## Parent Council AGM

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September**  
**6:30pm (fundraising)**  
**7:00pm AGM Meeting**

**School Staff Room**

**All new faces, very welcome!**

## Digital News!

- Remember to keep an eye on our website for up-dates of events etc. *Due to technical issues the website has not been up-dated as much as I would like! Hoping to be rectified very soon.*

[www.inverallochy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk](http://www.inverallochy.aberdeenshire.sch.uk)

- After our successful Project Padz campaign we are now all able to have access to iPads purchased last year and we are evaluating the need for more per class.
- APP of the month will return for September 😊

### Parent Helper Request

As we begin our new session 2017/2018 I would like to appeal to parents for any help they would like to offer.

We are currently looking for enthusiastic parents to help with:

- coastal classrooms (Tuesday AM/PM)
- i-bike activities (Keen cyclists welcome but not essential)
- General Classroom helpers

Parent helpers are required to have current PVG. Please contact the school office if you would like to volunteer and we will be in touch with you to arrange this if needed 😊



## Pupil Groups

Pupil groups will continue this year every second Thursday afternoon. For our new parents this is an opportunity for all the children to work in groups out with their class and work together on taking initiatives within our school forward. It allows everyone in our school to be a leader and develop leadership skills.

This year our Pupil Groups will be:

- Pupil Council - Children elected on to this via class votes
- Bike Crew - (P4-7 only) to work alongside the IBike Leader Phil and his team. Application forms for this are available from P4-7 teachers.
- Eco Council
- Rights Respecting Schools Group
- French Group
- Digital Leaders
- Gardening/Outside Environment Group



Children who are not elected to pupil council or who are not successful in their application for the Bike Crew will be given the opportunity to rank the other groups (in orange) 1-5 showing their preference. I will try as much as possible to please as many of the children as I can when allocating groups! Our first Pupil group session is on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

## *i-Bike – New for 2017/2018*

We are extremely lucky that we have been selected to take part in Sustrans i-Bike scheme. It is a great initiative which is focused on increasing the number of children walking, cycling and scootering to school. Currently we only encourage children to take their bikes to school if they have completed their Bikability training in P5. ***This is still the case*** (for now) however I am going to be discussing this with Phil, our i-bike co-ordinator in the coming weeks.

This is a 3 year programme with intensive support from the scheme in the first year. Phil has already suggested various activities which he can co-ordinate over the session from bike rides to cycle clubs to bike mechanics. It sounds very exciting!

To kick-start our i-Bike Journey our school is holding a Bike Breakfast on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> September. Please keep this morning date free (from 8am). More information will be coming home from the newly established bike crew next week!



The following week, Phil will be returning to hold a Dr Bike session (Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> Sept) in which any child/parent can bring their bike to school to have a free safety check. I will be bringing my own one along too as it has been in the garage for far too long!

Our P7s will be our first group to go off with Phil and Miss Miller (Who volunteered to be our school bike champion) on a led bike ride on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September. P7s can bring their own bikes for this ride, however Phil will also bring bikes for anyone who requires one 😊 (Further information regarding this will be sent home to P7 parents next week)

That same day, our P1s will be working with Phil in the afternoon using special balance bikes - sounds like a great afternoon for our newest pupils!

This initiative is great to be part of and will be of benefit to everyone in the school; pupils, parents and staff.

**Please note** - Phil has said that he is committed to all children being able to ride and he is keen to work with children who perhaps find this difficult or who have never tried riding a bike. He can work on a one-2-one basis or in a small group to target particular children in a safe and non-threatening environment. Please let us know if you think your child would benefit from this opportunity.

I am sure this is going to be an exciting and enjoyable year from everyone involved with Inverallochy School. As always if you have any suggestions or information which you would like to share through this newsletter, please do not hesitate to contact myself at the school.

*Mrs Edwards*